

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 039581

12

ORIGIN COA-02

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 COME-00 EB-11 AGR-20 INT-08

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 L-03 TRSE-00 OMB-01

IO-14 SCI-06 EPA-04 /092 R

DRAFTED BY S/FW-COA:SBLOW:SL
APPROVED BY S/FW-COA:SBLOW
EA/J-MR. DANKERT
COMMERCE/NMFS-MR. SNEAD(SUB)
----- 063777

R 272308Z FEB 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 039581

EO 11652 GDS

TAGS EFIS JA XP

SUBJECT: FISHERIES - MEETING ON BRISTOL BAY SALMON

1. FOLLOWING IS DRAFT PRESS RELEASE PROPOSED TO BE ISSUED
BY NOAA AND INSPIRED BY FAILURE US-JAPAN FEBRUARY MEETING
ON BRISTOL BAY SALMON (SEPTTEL). WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY
COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.

2. BEGIN TEXT: US URGES JAPANESE ACTION TO CONSERVE
SALMON RESOURCES: THE COMMERCE DEPARTMENT'S NATIONAL
OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION TODAY EXPRESSED
DEEP CONCERN THAT JAPAN HAS NOT YET ADVISED THE UNITED
STATES THAT ANY RESPONSIBLE ACTION HAS BEEN TAKEN REGARDING
THE OPERATIONS OF ITS HIGH SEAS GILL NET FISHERY IN 1974 ON
WHAT IS EXPECTED TO BE ONE OF THE LOWEST RUNS OF BRISTOL
BAY (ALASKA) SOCKEYE SALMON IN HISTORY. IMMEDIATE COOPERA-
TIVE ACTION BY THE JAPANESE IS CONSIDERED IMPERATIVE,
INASMUCH AS THE JAPANESE FLEET USUALLY LEAVES FOR THE NORTH
PACIFIC IN EARLY MAY.

MEMBERS OF THE US SECTION OF THE INTERNATIONAL NORTH
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 039581

PACIFIC FISHERIES COMMISSION AND OTHERS MET IN SEATTLE,

WASH., IN FEBRUARY TO REVIEW THE SITUATION IN LIGHT OF US CONCERN FOR THE RESOURCE. THOSE ATTENDING INCLUDED US CHAIRMAN ELMER E. RASMUSON, ANCHORAGE, ALASKA; PROFESSOR DONALD L. MCKERNAN OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON, SEATTLE; ROBERT W. SCHONING, DIRECTOR OF NOAA'S NATIONAL

MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE, WASHINGTON, D.C.; HAROLD Z. HANSEN, REPRESENTING ALASKA'S GOVERNOR WILLIAM EGAN; AND STAFF MEMBERS OF THE ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME AND NMFS WHO PROVIDED TECHNICAL DATA.

MR. SCHONING SAID HE WAS KEENLY DISAPPOINTED AT JAPAN'S CONTINUED FAILURE TO RESPOND IN A MEANINGFUL WAY TO THE CRITICAL CONSERVATION NEEDS WHICH HE SAID WERE CLEARLY ENUNCIATED AT A MEETING OF THE FULL COMMISSION IN TOKYO LAST NOVEMBER. INPFC COMPRISES REPRESENTATIVES OF CANADA, JAPAN, AND THE UNITED STATES; AND ONE OF ITS PRIMARY MISSIONS IS TO ENSURE THE MAXIMUM SUSTAINED PRODUCTIVITY OF THE FISHERY RESOURCES OF THE NORTH PACIFIC.

THE BRISTOL BAY SOCKEYE RUN IN 1974 IS FORECAST TO BE ABOUT 5 MILLION FISH, BUT THE MINIMUM NUMBER NEEDED FOR BROOD STOCK TO ENSURE MAINTENANCE OF THE RESOURCE IS ABOUT 9.5 MILLION FISH, ALMOST TWICE THE NUMBER EXPECTED TO BE IN THE RUN. THE UNITED STATES IS NOW PLANNING A VIRTUAL SHUTDOWN IN THE US HARVEST OF SOCKEYE SALMON IN BRISTOL BAY IN 1974.

THE STATE OF ALASKA HAS ANNOUNCED PLANS TO IMPOSE SEVERE RESTRICTIONS ON ALL FISHING FOR SOCKEYE UNDER ITS JURISDICTION, INCLUDING PROHIBITING ANY DIRECTED COMMERCIAL FISHERY IN BRISTOL BAY THIS YEAR WITH THE POSSIBLE EXCEPTION OF A SMALL FISHERY IN TOGIAK, AN AREA AT THE NORTHERN EDGE OF BRISTOL BAY. LIMITED NUMBERS OF SOCKEYE MAY BE TAKEN INCIDENTAL TO FISHERIES FOR OTHER SALMON SPECIES IN THE BAY, BUT NO LARGE RUNS OF ANY SPECIES ARE EXPECTED IN 1974.

IN ADDITION, IN AN UNPRECEDENTED MOVE, THE ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME HAS PROHIBITED SPORT FISHING FOR SOCKEYE AND SHARPLY CURTAILED THE SOCKEYE SUBSISTENCE

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 039581

CATCH IN THE BAY BY NATIVES IN 1974.

SCHONING SAID: "THERE IS AMPLE BIOLOGICAL EVIDENCE TO INDICATE THE URGENT NEED FOR STRONG CONSERVATION MEASURES IN THE SALMON FISHERIES."

THE JAPANESE HIGH SEAS CATCH OF BRISTOL BAY SOCKEYE SALMON FOR THE PAST 18 YEARS HAS AVERAGED ABOUT 2.4 MILLION

FISH A YEAR. THIS REPRESENTS ABOUT 22 PERCENT OF THE TOTAL ANNUAL HARVEST OF BRISTOL BAY SOCKEYE DURING THAT PERIOD. THE UNITED STATES FEELS THIS HARVEST MUST BE ESSENTIALLY ELIMINATED IN 1974.

SCHONING SAID: "IN 1974 IT IS NOT A MATTER OF CATCHING A HARVESTABLE SURPLUS, BUT ONE OF POSSIBLY SAVING FROM

EXTINCTION A CRITICALLY LOW RUN OF THE SOCKEYE SALMON RESOURCE THAT HAS BEEN AND, WITH PROPER CONSERVATION MEASURES, CAN AGAIN BE POTENTIALLY THE LARGEST IN THE WORLD."

DIRECTOR SCHONING SAID THAT JAPAN'S FAILURE SO FAR TO TAKE MEANINGFUL ACTIONS TO SAVE SUCH A VALUABLE RESOURCE POINTS

OUT THE IMPORTANCE OF THE US FISHERIES POSITION IN THE LAW OF THE SEA NEGOTIATIONS. IN THAT FORUM THE US POSITION IS THAT ANADROMOUS FISH SUCH AS SALMON AND STEELHEAD SHOULD NOT BE HARVESTED ON THE HIGH SEAS BUT BELONG TO THE COUNTRY OF ORIGIN AND SHOULD BE HARVESTED BY THAT NATION IN COASTAL WATERS WHERE SEPARATION OF SPECIFIC RUNS AND RATIONAL MANAGEMENT CAN BE ACCOMPLISHED. CASEY

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SALMON, FISHERIES MEETINGS, PRESS RELEASES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 FEB 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE039581
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: COA:SBLOW:SL
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t1974025/aaaaaecz.tel
Line Count: 137
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN COA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 JUL 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <30 JUL 2002 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <02 JAN 2003 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FISHERIES - MEETING ON BRISTOL BAY SALMON
TAGS: EFIS, JA, XP
To: TOKYO
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005